Update: Access to Child Care in Utah

Child Care Access and Affordability Amendments Committee Bill

Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel

Economic Development and Workforce Services
Interim Committee

September 15, 2021

Stakeholder Engagement

- Business community
- Parents
- City leaders
- Child care providers
- Early childhood development experts
- Office of Child Care (DWS)
- Child Care Licensing (UDOH)
- Utah Child Care Cooperative
- Utah Women & Leadership Project
- Private Child Care Association
- Kem C. Gardner Institute
- Salt Lake Chamber
- United Way of Salt Lake
- Voices for Utah Children
- YWCA
- Utah Association for the Education of Young Children
- NCSL Early Childhood Fellows Program
- Other interested stakeholders
- Review of best practices from other states

What is the Problem?

Access to child care to meet the needs of all families

Utah is experiencing a significant gap between the need for child care and the capacity of Utah's child care system to meet that need.

Policy Focus Areas

1. Child care provider shortage
2. Workforce shortage
3. Access to child care for all families

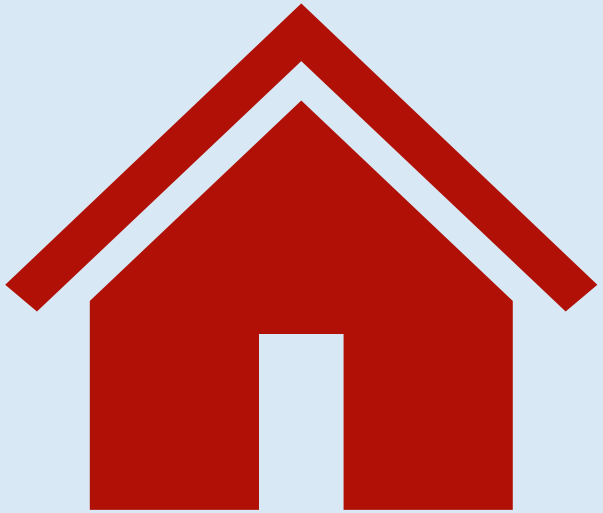
Possible Legislative Solutions

Possible legislative solutions not currently being addressed through COVID-19 relief funding programs:

Regulatory Changes

- Ratios
- Review of administrative rules
- Alignment of state and local licensing regulations

Possible Legislative Solutions



Land Use Solutions

- Modify housing allocation requirements for CRAs
- Modify requirements for a Housing and Transit Reinvestment Zone

Possible Legislative Solutions

Role of Employers

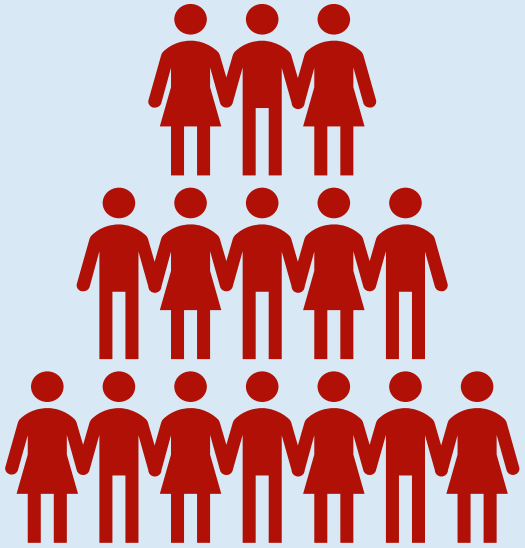
- Child care business cooperatives

Possible Legislative Solutions

New Providers

- Start-up grant program for new child care providers
- Technical assistance for new child care providers (licensing, zoning, permitting, etc)
- Incentives for certified teachers to become providers

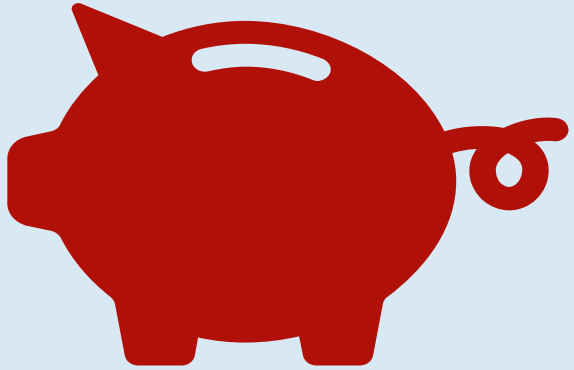
Possible Legislative Solutions



Workforce Shortage

- Apprenticeship program
- Early childhood education certificates
- TEACH Program

Possible Legislative Solutions



Family Choice

- Expand dependent exemption for 0-5 year olds

Next Steps

May
Introduce topic
Open committee bill file
June/July/August
Stakeholder engagement
Staff research
September
Report & committee discussion
October
Select/Identify proposed solutions
November
Review draft legislation